

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03601 271447Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W
-----053695 280240Z /64

R 271355Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1506
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3601

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BEGINS

SUMMARY: PAMPHLETS HAVE APPEARED IN NAMIBIA URGING NON-COOPERATION WITH THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE THAT GOT UNDER WAY JUNE 26. SWAPO AND NNF HAVE MADE KNOW THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE REGISTRATION EFFORT BUT CANNOT OPENLY DISCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FOR FEAR OF PROSECUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FROM WINDHOEK, THE VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN IN NAMIBIA BEGAN YESTERDAY, JUNE 26,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03601 271447Z

AMID SIGNS OF RESISTANCE.
BRIG. VICTOR VERSTER, DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE IN SWA, SAID HIS OFFICE WAS INVESTIGATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS URGING PEOPLE NOT TO REGISTER AS VOTERS. UNSIGNED PAMPHLETS AGAINST THE REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN WERE REPORTEDLY FOUND IN GROOTFONTEIN, TSUMEB AND WALVIS BAY. ACCORDING TO L.V. DE KOCK,

CHIEF REGISTRATION OFFICER, THE PAMPHLETS CALLED ON PEOPLE TO GO ON STRIKE UNTIL THE AG STOPPED HIS "ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES" AND THERE WAS A VEILED THREAT TO PEOPLE WHO REGISTERED AS VOTERS.

2. IN TERMS OF THE AG'S PROCLAMATION PUTTING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN MOTION, PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE FOR FINES UP TO THREE THOUSAND RAND AND IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO THREE YEARS FOR ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF DISCOURAGING OR INTIMIDATING PEOPLE NOT TO REGISTER. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, LUCIA HAMUTENYA, SWAPO SECRETARY FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS, DENIED SWAPO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAMPHLETEERING. SHE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING SWAPO REGARDED THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AS ILLEGAL AT THIS STAGE, BECAUSE THE WESTERN PEACE PLAN HAD NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED, BUT IT WAS UP TO THE VOTERS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO REGISTER OR NOT.

3. SWAPO SOURCES IN WINDHOEK TOLD US THAT THE PARTY HAD HELD A RALLY ON SUNDAY (JUNE 25) IN WHICH THE PEOPLE WERE TOLD SWAPO WAS "BUSY NEGOTIATING" WITH THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS AND COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTORAL PROCEDURES UNTIL THERE IS UN PARTICIPATION. THE SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE PUBLIC UNDERSTOOD THIS WAS A CALL FOR A BOYCOTT OF THE REGISTRATION. THE NAMIBIA NATIONAL FRONT HAS PUBLICLY CALLED THE REGIS- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRETOR 03601 271447Z

TRATION "PREMATURE" BUT NNF OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE PARTY CANNOT OPENLY DISCOURAGE REGISTRATION FOR FEAR OF PROSECUTION.

4. IN AN INTERVIEW ON SABC RADIO JUNE 27, THE AG STRESSED THAT THE REGISTRATION PROCESS WAS NOT A UNILATERAL SOUTH AFRICAN MOVE BUT WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE WESTERN PROPOSAL. THE AG ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE TERRITORY WERE OPPOSED TO THE REGISTRATION.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DE KOCK SAID THE FLOW OF PEOPLE TO REGISTER AS VOTERS WAS "COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY" IN WINDHOEK ON THE FIRST DAY. STATISTICS FROM OUTLYING DISTRICTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE, HE SAID, DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ON THE MORNING NEWS, THE SABC RADIO REPORTER IN WINDHOEK NOTED OPPOSITION TO THE REGISTRATION AND PREDICTED THAT THE TARGET FIGURE FOR TOTAL REGISTRATION WOULD HAVE TO BE "DRASTICALLY SCALED DOWN."

6. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY ABOUT 400 REGISTRATION OFFICIALS AND

WILL LAST FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS. THE OFFICIALS ARE
DIVIDED INTO 150 MULTIRACIAL TEAMS.
EDMONDSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTER REGISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780266-1218
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780616/aaaaanlv.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1716667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2193506
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BEGINS SUMMARY: PAMPHLETS HAVE APPEARED IN NAMIBIA URGING NON-COOPERATION WITH THE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE THAT
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1716667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014